

Members:

Rep. Brian Hasler, Chairperson
Rep. John Day
Rep. Cleo Duncan
Rep. Craig Fry
Rep. Jack Lutz
Rep. Candy Marendt
Sen. Thomas Wyss, Vice-Chairperson
Sen. William Alexa
Sen. Allie Craycraft
Sen. Glenn Howard
Sen. Connie Lawson
Sen. John Waterman



WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT STUDY COMMITTEE

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Authority: P.L. 163-1997

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MEETING MINUTES

Meeting Date: October 23, 1998
Meeting Time: 10:30 A.M.
Meeting Place: State House, 200 W. Washington St.,
Room 404
Meeting City: Indianapolis, Indiana
Meeting Number: 2

Members Present: Rep. Brian Hasler, Chairperson; Rep. Craig Fry; Rep. Cleo Duncan; Rep. Jack Lutz; Sen. Connie Lawson; Sen. William Alexa; Sen. Allie Craycraft; Sen. Glenn Howard.

Members Absent: Rep. John Day; Rep. Candy Marendt; Sen. Thomas Wyss; Sen. John Waterman.

The Chairperson called the Committee to order at 10:45 A.M. After introducing the members, he recapitulated the charges to the Committee, and thanked all the persons and agencies from the private and public sectors who have worked together to improve service to the public. The Chairperson then called for a report from the Department of Workforce Development (DWD).

Craig Hartzer, Commissioner of DWD, distributed three handouts to the Committee. The first concerned the federal Workforce Investment Act (WIA) and Indiana's proposed response to the WIA¹. Mr. Hartzer summarized the goals and outcomes DWD sees as an appropriate response to the WIA, including building accountability into the workforce development system and the incorporation of a "work first"

¹This document is on file with the Legislative Information Center, Room 230 of the State House, Indianapolis, Indiana. The telephone number of the Legislative Information Center is (317) 232-9856, and the mailing address is 200 W. Washington St., Suite 301, Indianapolis, IN 46204-2789.

philosophy into the system. He pointed out that there is an explicit reference in the WIA to training vouchers and generating a consumer report card for trainers, and that a "one-stop" system of service provision is required.

Mr. Hartzer's second handout was a diagram of the partners of the one-stop system required under the WIA². Among the mandatory partners (indicated on the handout by square boxes) under WIA are WIA entities for adult, youth, and displaced workers, welfare-to-work agencies, Title V agencies, DWD, HUD, adult education and literacy agencies, and vocational rehabilitation agencies. Voluntary partners (indicated by rounded squares on the handout) include national and community service agencies and food stamp programs. In addition, Mr. Hartzer pointed out that Indiana has agencies that are unique to the state which can be included as partners, such as the Step Ahead and 21st century scholar programs (these are indicated on the handout by half-oval boxes). The WIA also requires local elected officials to be heavily involved in the creation of regional boards.

DWD's final handout concerned points to be included in legislation that can be introduced to take advantage of WIA³. Mr. Hartzer's overview of pivotal points included the following:

(1) States must implement WIA by July 1, 2000. DWD recommends beginning implementation of WIA on July 1, 1999, and phasing in aspects as the state is prepared to do so.

(2) The state board required under WIA can be an existing Human Resource Investment Council modified to come into compliance with WIA. The state board must draw a majority of its membership from the private sector.

(3) Under WIA, the state administering agency must designate regions for regional service delivery. These regions must take into account labor markets; thus, in Indiana some existing service areas may be combined. An existing regional service board that meets the requirements of WIA may be used. The state may wish to use local elected officials to evaluate these existing boards, and DWD has contracted with a person to provide training and technical assistance to these local officials. DWD considers it important to separate regional boards from service delivery agencies, freeing the boards to deal with policy, planning, review, and other broader functions.

The Committee approved the minutes of the August 24, 1998 meeting.

The Chairperson called for comments from other interested parties. Tim McGann,

²This document is on file with the Legislative Information Center (see footnote 1).

³This document is on file with the Legislative Information Center (see footnote 1).

Human Resource Investment Council, stated the legislature has a unique opportunity to provide workforce development in communities. He sees building collaborative capacity in local communities as the most important aspect of workforce development service provision.

Lois Neloms, chair of the Indiana Private Industry Council Association, reviewed the Committee's work over the past two years, stressing the progress made in building consensus between groups. She sees both a great need and opportunity for change in workforce development services, and reminded the Committee there are needs unique to Indiana to be addressed, such as the consolidation of multiple boards on a local level.

The Chairperson thanked the Committee and the participants from agencies and the private sector for their work over the past two years. He stated his intention to work with Senators Wyss and Alexa, Representative Lutz, and interested parties to develop legislation for the upcoming session that will take into consideration DWD's suggestions as well as the Jobs Council report published last year. If the Committee is given an extension to meet after the November 1 deadline, the legislation will be presented at that meeting; however, if the Committee cannot meet, the legislation will be circulated to all the Committee members for their input.

As the Committee was not sure another meeting could be held, the Committee voted 7-0 to adopt the draft final report with the addition of a summary of today's meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 11:45 A.M.

(Under P.L. 163-1997, the Committee expires on November 2, 1998; thus, the Committee will not hold another meeting.)